

Bill Cosponsored By Wilson Clears U.S. House

Washington - In an effort to help local law enforcement agencies identify and clean up old meth labs, Congressman Charlie Wilson today cast his vote in support of H.R. 365, the Meth Remediation Research Act of 2007. The bill, cosponsored by Congressman Wilson, cleared the House this afternoon.

"Meth not only puts the user in danger," said Congressman Wilson. "The volatile chemicals used in the production of meth also put entire families and communities at risk. This bill gives our local law enforcement valuable tools to directly and aggressively reduce that risk."

Meth lab seizures are on the rise in Ohio. According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration:

— 29 meth labs were seized in Ohio in 2003

— 123 meth labs were seized in Ohio in 2004

— 331 meth labs were seized in Ohio in 2005

Some communities in the Sixth District have been particularly hard hit. "Things have definitely changed for the worse," said Scioto County Chief Deputy Sheriff Todd Miller. "We didn't see much in the way of meth labs five years ago, but this is a real problem now. People are passing around their meth recipes and putting a lot of people at risk."

Specifically, H.R. 365:

— directs federal agencies to develop technologies to detect meth labs, especially in-field test kits

— charges the EPA with developing health-based guidelines to help state and local authorities in cleaning up former meth lab sites

— requires the National Academy of Sciences to study the long-term health

impacts of meth exposure on first-responders and on children taken from meth lab sites

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